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Clark urges strike suspension

Education. Ensure kids are back in class while talks are underway, premier tells teachers

Premier Christy Clark and Education Minister Peter Fassbender talk about the ongoing teachers' dispute at a news conference in Vancouver on Wednesday. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The premier chastised the teachers' union and urged its members to cast aside strike action on Wednesday, inciting a defensive response from the teachers' federation.

Christy Clark stood beside her education minister and outlined her view of the steps required to get the situation rolling toward resolution, in what was her first public address about the brewing dispute since the strike shuttered schools indefinitely.

Teachers must suspend the strike while the two sides negotiate, so that children can immediately start their school year, and the union must alter and introduce a "reasonable" proposal at the bargaining table, she said.

"The only ones who can end this strike or suspend it is the teachers' union," she told reporters. "If we really want to put students first and we really care that kids are at the top of the agenda, we'll all make sure they're in school tomorrow."

Clark promised that if the conditions were met, the government would start discussing what she began characterizing as the "single most important issue" for her, classroom size and composition. That could happen only if the union ended its bid to obtain such benefits in the contract as an extra day off for high-school teachers, unlimited massages and a $5,000 signing bonus, she said.

"As long as we're there, it makes it impossible for us to get to the things that I think really matter to parents," she said.

Two hours later, B.C. Teachers' Federation president Jim Iker accused the government of going to great lengths to make it appear the gap between the sides was a massive gulf and vowed strikers would march the lines until they got movement from the government.

He said Clark was "mistaken" in her portrayal of the union's demands, noting several items had already been taken off the table, and described the government's $375-million interim offer for dealing with special needs in the classroom as "status quo," because it would be used only to hire teachers previously laid off due to cuts.

He reiterated the union's proposal for two new multimillion-dollar funds to hire more teachers and deal with grievances as the only way to rectify the problem, while saying the union was still willing to bargain on the exact amounts.

"Is fixing a system that's been underfunded for 12 years expensive? Yes, of course it is," he told reporters at a news conference, before adding his own jabs. "But the government needs to rethink its priorities and put kids first. If they can build a roof on BC Place for half a billion dollars or give a private power company in California $750 million, we can afford to invest in our children."

No new talks are scheduled.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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FIVE THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW TODAY

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WHAT THE H?
Thieves in Abbotsford have apparently been stealing pre-2004 Hondas like hotcakes. According to Abbotsford police, 24 older Hondas were stolen between July 1 and Sept. 2.

2
A NEW CAR! OR HOUSE!
The annual PNE Prize Home Lottery draw is tonight at 6:30 p.m. The grand prize is a Jillian Harris-designed house in Kelowna.

3
BRING BACK THE BEES
Two Ontario honey producers are creating a buzz over disappearing bees by launching a class-action lawsuit against makers of pesticides widely blamed for the deaths.

4
GAME STILL ON
In discussing how to penalize aggression in Ukraine, the EU floated but quickly rejected the idea of sanctioning Russian-hosted sporting events, including the 2018 World Cup.

5
ARE YOU ON TREND?
New York Fashion Week starts today through Sept. 10 and will help set the way people dress during the Spring 2015 season.

Burnaby in standoff with Trans Mountain crews

Pipeline surveying. City staff posted at park after Kinder Morgan workers cut down trees

EMILY JACKSON
emily.jackson@metronews.ca

Trans Mountain Pipeline crews abandoned attempts to survey Burnaby Mountain on Wednesday after a standoff with city staff, but it's not clear whether the company will comply with a stop-work order for the rest of the week.

Burnaby issued a stop-work order to Kinder Morgan, which is attempting to survey the city land to see if it's a viable pipeline route, when crews showed up to the conservation area with chainsaws on Tuesday.

City staff were posted at the park on Wednesday when the standoff occurred to ensure no bylaws were violated after the crews cut down about a half dozen healthy trees on Tuesday, Mayor Derek Corrigan said.

The National Energy Board ruled the company is allowed to conduct surveying activities on city land, but Corrigan argues the ruling doesn't give it free rein to violate bylaws, including tree-cutting or shutting down roads.

"The idea that somehow Kinder Morgan can control our park and our roads is way beyond a reasonable expectation of what they can do to be able to survey," Corrigan said.

If the company wants to overturn the stop-work order, it should take Burnaby to court, he added.

But Kinder Morgan argues cutting down trees and trimming foliage in a 20-by-20-metre area so it can lower in equipment by helicopter are part of legal surveying activities, Trans Mountain spokeswoman Ali Hounsell said. "We decided to leave the Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area for now while we consult with our legal team on what to do. Our perspective is we have the authority to do that."

In order to determine if it's feasible for the company to drill a two-kilometre section through the mountain to lay pipeline, it needs to drill a test bore hole to determine what is below the surface, she said.

Hounsell did not want to speculate whether Kinder Morgan crews would head back to the mountain this week.

Quoted

"The idea that somehow Kinder Morgan can control our park and our roads is way beyond a reasonable expectation of what they can do to be able to survey."
Burnaby Mayor Derek Corrigan

Biologists and an ecologist conduct a field study and geotechnical investigation for the proposed Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain Pipeline expansion project on Aug. 27. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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NPA to review Point Grey Road closure for bike lane if elected

Kitsilano. Mayoral candidate Kirk LaPointe says Vision approved project without adequately listening to community

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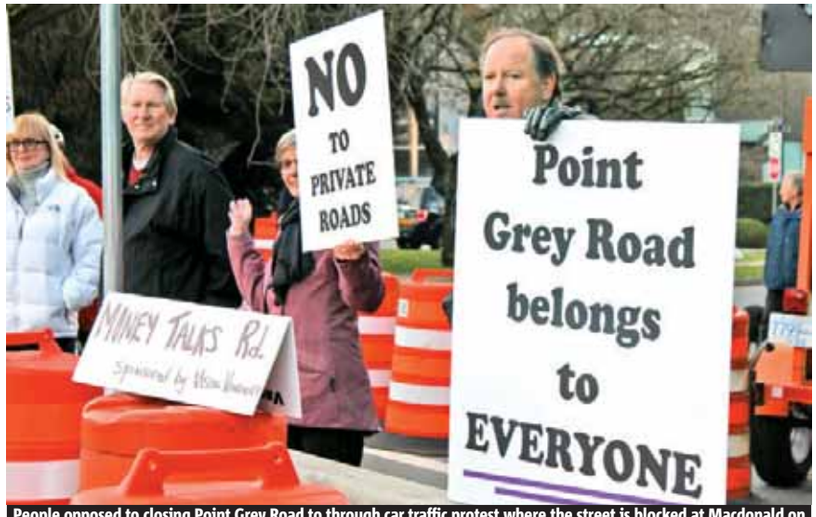

People opposed to closing Point Grey Road to through car traffic protest where the street is blocked at Macdonald on Jan. 20. EMILY JACKSON/METRO FILE

The Non-Partisan Association will review the city's decision to close Point Grey Road to commuter car traffic if the civic party wins the November election, NPA mayoral candidate Kirk LaPointe said Wednesday.

"We would ensure we held a good hearing and review of it," LaPointe said of the controversial Kitsilano bike route constructed in 2014.

"There may be a very changed context having a year of the project under the belt of the city…. It's worth a review," LaPointe said.

LaPointe's comments come after Vision Vancouver sent an email stating the NPA would "rip out the Point Grey bike lane." LaPointe countered he never said that, but NPA Coun. George Affleck told Metro in January that if elected, the NPA would reopen the road that was closed off at Macdonald Street.

Vision dubbed the discrepancy between Affleck and LaPointe a "policy flip-flop."

But LaPointe argues the project wasn't complete when Affleck made his comment, positions evolve and reopening the road doesn't equate to tearing up the project.

Vision approved the project without adequately listening to the community, he said, adding the NPA would do "extensive consultation" when examining other options for the route.

The city budgeted $6 million to build the bikeway, which connects the western beaches with the False Creek seawall.

Weekday cycling trips on the street have nearly tripled since the completion of construction, according to data released by the city last week. In June 2014, there was an average of 1,500 daily bike trips compared to 600 in August 2012.

"This is a carefully done design that had a lot of community support, and the outcome has been very successful for everything I can see," Vision Coun. Geoff Meggs said.

The Green Party of Vancouver, which was neck-and-neck with the NPA in the latest municipal poll, agrees there could have been more engagement, but the party would not revisit the idea, council candidate Pete Fry said.

"I think going back and reversing that would just be a colossal waste of money and time," Fry said. "It's a great route."

Cycling trips up

1,500

In June 2014, there was an average of 1,500 daily bike trips on the street compared to 600 in August 2012.

Surrey man arrested for allegedly printing fake money at bus loop

A Surrey man is facing charges of making counterfeit money after transit police say they witnessed him printing fake bills in the Surrey Central Bus Loop last week.

Gerald Doyle, 48, of Surrey was arrested shortly after 5 p.m. on Aug. 28 when transit police received a report of a man making counterfeit money at the bus loop.

Officers found Doyle standing over a printer plugged into an external electrical outlet, police said. An 8-1/2-by-11-inch piece of paper on which $20 bills were printed was sticking out of a bag at the man's feet, according to police.

After arresting the man, police said they recovered more than $1,000 in counterfeit bills along with a quantity of counterfeit paraphernalia.

Police said he was released from custody Aug. 18 on a similar charge with conditions that he not possess items that could be used to create counterfeit currency. He is also prohibited from possessing knives, several of which were found in his bag, police said.

Doyle, who is known to police, is charged with one count of possession of counterfeit money and one count of possession of instruments used to make counterfeit money.

He appeared in Surrey provincial court on Wednesday. THANDI FLETCHER/METRO

Evidence seized by transit police after the arrest. COURTESY TRANSIT POLICE

Closing arguments.
Accused killer had system to target women: Crown

Cody Legebokoff

An accused serial killer in northern B.C. had a "system" to target vulnerable women: sexually assault them and then kill them using various tools and implements, jurors at his trial heard Wednesday.

In his closing arguments in a Prince George courtroom, Crown prosecutor Joseph Temple emphasized the similarities in the deaths of the three women and one teenage girl Cody Legebokoff is accused of murdering. Legebokoff, 24, faces four counts of first-degree murder for the deaths of Jill Stuchenko and Cynthia Maas, both 35, Natasha Montgomery, 23, and 15-year-old Loren Leslie.

Temple told the jury the murders were committed in or within driving distance of Prince George, and — for the three bodies that were found — there were similarities in the manner in which they were murdered and disposed of.

The killings occurred within a 14-month span, beginning with Stuchenko, whose body was found on Oct. 20, 2009, partially buried in a gravel pit.

Stuchenko, Maas and Montgomery were described as sex trade workers addicted to crack cocaine, while Leslie suffered from mental-health issues, used marijuana and met Legebokoff through a social media site, Temple said. On Tuesday, Legebokoff's lawyer asked the jury to convict his client of second-degree murder.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Surrey. Woman charged with failing to provide for her toddler son

A 23-year-old Surrey woman is facing criminal charges after Mounties allege she failed to provide her two-year-old son with the necessities of life.

Surrey RCMP said officers arrested the woman Friday, 2-1/2 months after they first became aware of the case.

The two-year-old boy is in custody of B.C.'s Ministry of Children and Family Development, according to RCMP.

Due to a publication ban, police are not releasing the identity of the woman or her son.

RCMP said they could not comment on the boy's condition when he was found, except to say it was poor and that he has improved since Friday. Some media outlets were reporting Wednesday that the toddler was found starving to death, and had the weight of a baby a year younger than him when he was discovered.

A ministry spokesman said he could not comment on the case for privacy reasons.

The boy's mother was charged Wednesday with failure to provide the necessities of life and criminal negligence causing bodily harm, according to police.

THANDI FLETCHER/METRO

A file photo of a SkyTrain station in Vancouver. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/FOR METRO

TransLink CEO under fire for $422K salary in 2013

Financial docs. Ian Jarvis saw a pay hike of almost 7 per cent, even though company promised salaries would be frozen

THANDI FLETCHER
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TransLink is facing harsh criticism from the Canadian Taxpayers Federation after recent financial documents revealed the transit corporation's executives earned larger than usual paycheques and bonuses last year.

According to salary disclosure documents released by the Metro Vancouver transit corporation Friday, TransLink CEO Ian Jarvis earned $422,407 in 2013, as well as $83,700 in bonuses and $45,609 in pension contributions and other benefits — a hike of nearly seven per cent compared to the previous year.

Other TransLink executives also drew hefty compensation, including chief financial officer Cathy McLay, chief operating officer Doug Kelsey, SkyTrain boss Fred Cummings and bus company president Haydn Acheson.

Jordan Bateman, B.C. director for the Canadian Taxpayers Federation, said he was "bitterly disappointed" to see executives earn larger paycheques in 2013 despite declarations from TransLink's chair in 2012 that salary levels would be frozen and bonuses eliminated.

"Only at TransLink is a freeze not a freeze," said Bateman.

Bateman said it's noteworthy TransLink posted the financial documents, dated June 30, late on a Friday afternoon before the Labour Day long weekend.

"This is classic West Wing politics, taking out the trash on a Friday," he said. "TransLink was trying to bury this so deep that nobody would ever find it."

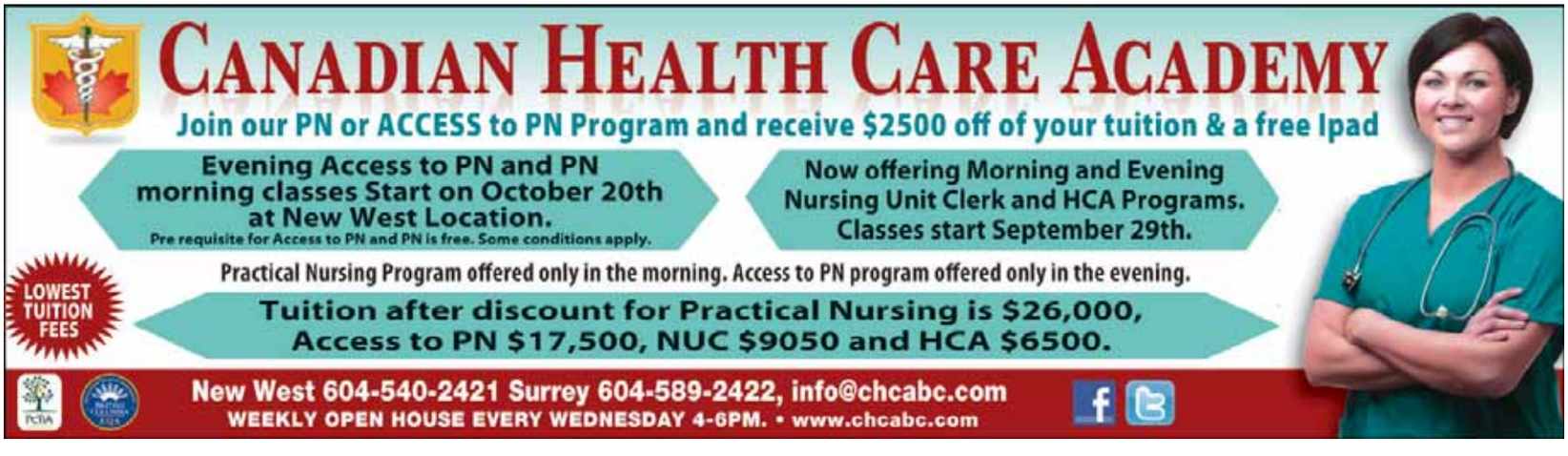
But Colleen Brennan, VP of communications for TransLink, called Bateman's comments misleading and factually incorrect.

"The salaries were frozen and they remain frozen," she told Metro.

The increase in executive compensation in 2013 was due to money earned in 2012 as part of a short-term incentive plan, Brennan said. With the bonuses eliminated, executives will see cuts of $20,000 to $40,000 each in the 2014 fiscal year, she said.

"The money was paid out that was owed in 2012," Brennan said. "We're playing catch-up with our reporting. That's just the way organizations report."

As for TransLink's decision to release the documents on a Friday, Brennan said the company is not a Crown corporation and is not legally required to disclose its executives' salaries.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Canadian delegation visits Iraq to pledge support in ISIS battle

Showing 'solidarity.'
Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird promises to stand by the people of Iraq but cuts no slack to neighbouring Iran

From left: Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird, Liberal MP Marc Garneau and NDP MP Paul Dewar arrive at an airport Wednesday in Baghdad, Iraq. The delegation is in Iraq to provide moral and material support in the country's struggle against al-Qaida splinter group ISIS. RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Accompanied by two of his political rivals, Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird slipped quietly Wednesday into one of the world's most dangerous countries, where he declared Canada would stand by the people of Iraq.

The two-day visit, which continues Thursday in the northern city of Irbil, began in sweltering Baghdad behind a steely curtain of security. Baird, whose travel plans had been a closely guarded secret, is in Iraq to provide both moral and material support to Iraq, which is reeling under a relentless offensive by the al-Qaida splinter group known as ISIS.

But Baird was unwilling to cut neighbouring Iran any slack, despite that country's stated opposition to ISIS's advance and recent signals that it's willing to work with the U.S. and its allies. Canada still lists Iran as a state sponsor of terrorism.

"Obviously we have a very different view when it comes to the government of Tehran," Baird said. "It could suspend its considerable support to terrorist organizations, not just around the region but around the world."

A meeting with Iraqi President Fuad Masoum was first on Baird's packed agenda as the Canadian delegation, including opposition MPs, donned flak jackets for a high-speed dash in an armoured convoy to the presidential palace. He also met with Foreign Affairs Minister Hoshyar Zebari.

"We are many — all Canadians in government — deeply concerned with the security threat," Baird told the president. "We wanted to come here to show our solidarity with the Iraqi people."

He also echoed Prime Minister Stephen Harper in condemning what both of them called the "barbaric" ISIS beheadings of U.S. journalists James Foley and Steven Sotloff, both of which were documented in videos on the Internet.

Baird did not arrive empty-handed. He promised $10 million for equipment, helmets, body armour and logistics-support vehicles for Iraqi forces and $5 million more to support efforts to limit the flow of foreign fighters into Iraq and Syria. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"Canada will not stand idly by while ISIS continues to murder innocent civilians, including members of ethnic and religious minorities." Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird

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Russia, Ukraine discuss framework for ceasefire

Russian President Vladimir Putin speaks to the media in Ulan Bator, Mongolia, Wednesday. A day ahead of a NATO summit, Putin issued his own peace plan for eastern Ukraine, calling on the Russian-backed insurgents to "stop advancing" and urging Ukraine to withdraw troops from the region. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

But Western leaders are skeptical. On eve of NATO summit, Vladimir Putin says rebels should halt their offensive

Russia and Ukraine said Wednesday they are working on a deal to halt months of fighting in eastern Ukraine, but Western leaders expressed skepticism — noting it wasn't the first attempt to end the deadly conflict.

Quoted

"It may be a small sign of hope, but whether it is good news will only become clear in the coming days."

Frank-Walter Steinmeier, German foreign minister

On the eve of a crucial NATO summit, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko's office said he and Russian President Vladimir Putin had agreed on steps for a ceasefire.

In a televised statement, Putin spelled out a seven-point plan for ending hostilities in eastern Ukraine, where Russian-backed separatists scored significant gains last week against government forces after four months of fighting.

Putin, speaking on a visit to Mongolia, said the rebels should halt their offensive and the Ukrainian government forces should pull back to a distance that would make it impossible for them to use artillery and rockets against residential areas. He also urged international monitoring of a ceasefire, a prisoners exchange and the delivery of humanitarian aid to war-ravaged regions.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Risk 'non-existent'

Latimer asks court to overturn ban on international travel

For more than 20 years, Robert Latimer has followed every rule and condition imposed upon him, his lawyer told a Federal Court judge on Wednesday.

Jason Gratl asked the court to overturn a parole-board decision that bars Latimer from travelling outside Canada without permission, saying it is an unreasonable limitation on the Saskatchewan farmer who was convicted of second-degree murder in the death of his disabled daughter.

"Mr. Latimer really has done about as much as it is possible to do to demonstrate that he complies with all his conditions," Gratl said. "The risk is essentially non-existent."

Latimer, 60, killed 12-year-old Tracy in 1993. She suffered from severe cerebral palsy and Latimer has always maintained he wanted to end her chronic, excruciating pain.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

New Brunswick

Mountie hopes guilty plea draws attention to PTSD

A New Brunswick Mountie who pleaded guilty Wednesday to assaulting four fellow RCMP officers says he hopes his case brings attention to the issue of post-traumatic stress disorder.

Cpl. Ron Francis, who made national headlines last year after he complained that he wasn't allowed to smoke medicinal marijuana for PTSD while in uniform, wept as he entered the pleas in provincial court in Fredericton.

Outside court, Francis said he would like to see greater awareness of the mental illness as a result of his case.

"Soldiers, police, people who do this kind of work, over time it's going to affect them," said Francis, who is on leave from the RCMP.

"I want to help other members."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Protesters gather outside the Nova Scotia legislature in Halifax to show their opposition to the use of hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, in this April 2011 file photo. The Nova Scotia government says it will introduce legislation this fall to prohibit high-volume hydraulic fracturing for onshore shale gas. ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Nova Scotia looks to ban fracking

For onshore shale gas. Experts recommend more research on health, environmental and economic impacts

Fracking

A two-year moratorium on fracking was put in place by the previous NDP government in 2012, as public protests grew in Nova Scotia and in neighbouring New Brunswick.

- Proponents of fracking say the industry could spur Nova Scotia's stalled economy and reduce its reliance on polluting, coal-fired plants.
- Fracking is a process that forces pressurized water and chemicals into layers of rock to release trapped oil and natural gas.

The Nova Scotia government says it will introduce legislation this fall to prohibit high-volume hydraulic fracturing — or "fracking" — for onshore shale gas.

Energy Minister Andrew Younger says he believes Nova Scotians are not comfortable with fracking.

Younger's announcement Wednesday comes less than a week after a panel of experts released a report saying fracking shouldn't be allowed until more independent research is done on health, environmental and economic impacts.

The panel also recommended setting up a process to get a community's permission before a project is allowed to proceed.

Younger says the Liberal government made its decision following input from the public, including aboriginal leaders in the province.

"Nova Scotians have overwhelmingly expressed concern about allowing high-volume hydraulic fracturing to be a part of onshore shale development in this province at this time," Younger said in a statement.

"Our petroleum resources belong to Nova Scotians, and we must honour the trust people have put in us to understand their concerns."

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Breakup of U.K. not in global interest: Harper

Issue of separatism.
Canadian PM took part in a Q&A in London, U.K.

Breaking up the United Kingdom would not serve the greater global interest, nor the interest of ordinary people throughout the country, says Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

A question about the looming referendum on Scottish independence came up Wednesday as Harper took part in a question-and-answer session in front of a business audience in London. Recent public opinion surveys in Britain show the Yes and No sides are almost evenly split, with a little more than two weeks left before the Sept. 18 vote.

The gap between the two sides has been narrowing for the past month, with some 42 per cent of poll respondents saying they would vote in favour and 48 per cent standing opposed, according to a poll tracker in The Telegraph newspaper.

Harper rhymed off a host of global woes — from terrorism and trade to the Ebola outbreak and climate change — and questioned how facing those challenges would be better in a fractured country.

"What would the division of a country like Canada, or the division of a country like the United Kingdom, do to advance solutions to any of those issues?" Harper asked in response to a question by Fraser Nelson, the editor The Spectator magazine.

Nelson joked that maybe the Canadian prime minister should stick around and take his message up north, to which Harper conceded the sentiment might not be well-received in Scotland.

Harper said that ultimately it is "a decision for the Scots," one that should be respected, regardless of the outcome.

"This is a vote with immense consequences and those consequences should be thoroughly understood and digested," Harper said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Alex Salmond, of the pro-independence Scottish National Party, holds cupcakes emblazoned with "Aye."
DANNY LAWSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Unemployed in big cities.
Few jobless in T.O. collect employment insurance

It was a barely noticed peculiarity in the government's latest employment-insurance numbers — just 17 per cent of unemployed workers in Toronto are collecting EI, among the lowest rates in the city's history as it confronts a higher jobless rate than provincial and national averages.

There are more than 307,000 jobless Torontonians, according to the latest Statistics Canada figures. Fewer than 55,000 of them are collecting EI in a city with an 8.9 per cent jobless rate.

Experts say that while many of the jobless are unemployed citizens who don't qualify for EI, others are part of an evolving urban labour market that isn't being reflected by Canada's EI system.

Matthew Mendelsohn, director of the University of Toronto's Mowat Centre, says EI is out of step with labour-market realities in the country's biggest cities, leaving tens of thousands of workers without a social safety net.

People living in big cities often hold down multiple part-time jobs, Mendelsohn noted. Some are in contract positions, and contracts run out. Some work for temp agencies. Many are self-employed, and work dries up. Many of those workers don't pay EI premiums, so they're unable to access EI when out of work. THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Redesigning the system'

Mendelsohn suggests "redesigning the system in such a way that more people in non-traditional employer-employee arrangements would have to contribute to the system."

- But he says that wouldn't do much to help people with many part-time jobs or contract jobs that end, resulting in unemployment until another contract lined up.

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France's former first lady tells all in book

A man buys a copy of Paris Match from a Paris newsstand on Wednesday, with a photo of Valerie Trierweiler on the cover and the lead titled My life with François. The former French first lady's book, Merci pour ce Moment (Thanks for this moment), details her life at the presidential palace and her relationship with French President François Hollande. The couple broke up in January amid reports of President Hollande having an affair. The book goes on sale Thursday. JACQUES BRINON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'I'm pretty ashamed and embarrassed'

In-flight altercation. Businessman speaks after infamous fight over reclined seat

The businessman whose dispute with a fellow airline passenger over a reclined seat sparked a national debate says he's embarrassed by the way the confrontation unfolded.

"I'm pretty ashamed and embarrassed by what happened," said James Beach. "I could have handled it so much better."

The confrontation centred on Beach's Knee Defender, a $22 gadget that can attach to a tray table and prevents the passenger in front from reclining their own chairs. The Knee Defender is prohibited by U.S. airlines but is not illegal.

U.S. businessman James Beach said he's embarrassed by his actions on a recent trip. JOHN MONE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"You have the right (to recline), but it seems rude to do it," said Beach.

The passenger in front of Beach eventually complained to a flight attendant about not being able to recline her seat, to which Beach admitted using the Knee Defender.

Beach said he removed it upon being asked, but the woman then fully reclined her seat, striking his laptop.

This sparked an altercation that saw Beach force the seat upright to reinstall the device and the woman throw her soda at him. Their flight eventually diverted to Chicago and both were left behind. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Streak broken

Federal judge upholds Louisiana gay marriage ban

A federal judge upheld Louisiana's ban on same-sex marriages on Wednesday, ending a streak of legal victories for gay-marriage advocates.

U.S. District Judge Martin Feldman's ruling was the first to uphold a state ban since the U.S. Supreme Court last year struck down part of a federal law that defines marriage as being between a man and a woman. His decision broke a string of 20 consecutive rulings overturning bans in other states.

Feldman also upheld the state's refusal to recognize same-sex marriages performed legally in other states.

Last year's landmark Supreme Court decision fell short of declaring same-sex matrimony legal across the country, but observers have long said the issue of whether gay and lesbian couples have a fundamental right to marry would ultimately need to be decided by the nation's highest court. It is unlikely Feldman's ruling will derail gay marriage's path back to the Supreme Court.

Gay marriage is legal in 19 states and Washington, D.C.

Feldman said gay-marriage supporters failed to prove that the ban violates equal protection or due-process provisions of the U.S. Constitution.

Feldman sided with the state, which argued that the nation's high court, in the Defence of Marriage Act decision, recognized the rights of state voters and legislatures to define marriage.

"Although opinions about same-sex marriage will understandably vary among the states, and other states in free and open debate will and have chosen differently, that does not mandate that Louisiana has overstepped its sovereign authority," he wrote. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Doorstep death. Detroit-area man gets at least 17 years for murdering teen

A suburban Detroit man was sentenced Wednesday to at least 17 years in prison for killing an unarmed woman who appeared on his porch before dawn.

Theodore Wafer was convicted of second-degree murder in the Nov. 2 death of 19-year-old Renisha McBride.

Wafer is white and McBride was black, and some wondered in the aftermath of the shooting whether race was a factor, likening it to the shooting of unarmed Florida teenager Trayvon Martin. But race was hardly mentioned at trial.

Renisha McBride
DETROIT NEWS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Before he was sentenced, Wafer apologized to McBride's family, saying he killed a woman who was "too young to leave this world." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

N.Y.C. St. Patrick's Day

Gay group to march under own banner

Organizers of New York City's St. Patrick's Day Parade have agreed to allow a gay contingent to march under its own banner for the first time, making an exception for a group of employees from NBC, the network televising the event. The prohibition on identified gay groups in New York's largest parade had made participation a political issue. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Reports counter Harper's view on aboriginal victims

Refusal to launch public inquiry. PM has said missing, murdered women not a sociological phenomenon

Dozens of federal, provincial and community studies compiled by the Conservative government appear to contradict the prime minister's contention that the problem of missing and murdered aboriginal women isn't a "sociological phenomenon."

But some in the aboriginal community don't quibble with the government's other main response to calls for a public inquiry — that there has been more than enough research.

Officials point to a non-exhaustive list of 40 studies conducted on the issue between 1996 and 2013.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper arrives in Cardiff, Wales, on Wednesday to attend the NATO Summit. THE CANADIAN PRESS

A closer look at the research shows that in nearly every case, the authors or participants highlight the "root" or systemic causes of violence against aboriginal women and their marginalization in society.

The legacy of colonization, including the displacement and dispossession linked with residential schools and other policies, are cited frequently in the reports. The impact of poverty and lack of housing are also cited as root causes of violence against aboriginal women.

"There are root causes of violence in the aboriginal communities that include things like poverty and racism, and this is why it's incredibly important for us to work with organizations, aboriginal organizations, across the country," said former Minister for Status of Women Rona Ambrose at a parliamentary hearing in 2011.

Harper has offered a different perspective.

"I think we should not view this as sociological phenomenon. We should view it as crime," he said last month.

"It is crime, against innocent people, and it needs to be addressed as such."

The government's related position has been that there have been enough studies — the focus needs to be on action.

"What we don't need is yet another study on top of the some 40 studies and reports that have already been done, that made specific recommendations which are being pursued, to delay ongoing action," Justice Minister Peter MacKay said last week.

Some inside the aboriginal community agree there have been enough studies, but there are varying opinions on whether an inquiry would just go over the same ground.

One 2005 report prepared by three B.C. community groups, entitled Researched to Death, pointed to the "striking similarities" in research and recommendations done up to that point.

"The only outstanding element is action," the authors wrote. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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So, is this the end of privacy?

Photo-hacking scandal. The barrier between public and private is crumbling, and not just for beautiful starlets

As the celebrity photo-hacking scandal has made clear, privacy isn't what it used to be.

Whether famous or seemingly anonymous, people from all walks of life put all sorts of things online or into cloud-based storage systems, from vital financial information to the occasional nude photo. Periodic cases of hacking fuel outrage, but there's no retreat from digital engagement or any imminent promise of guaranteed privacy.

"We have this abstract belief that privacy is important, but the way we behave online often runs counter to that," said Nicholas Carr, whose extensive writings about the Internet include the 2010 book The Shallows: What the Internet Is Doing to Our Brains.

"I'd hope people would understand that anything you do online could be made public," Carr said. "Yet there's this illusion of security that tempers any nervousness ... It's hard to judge risks when presented with the opportunity to do something fun."

The latest headlines involved nude photos of actress Jennifer Lawrence and other celebrities which were accessed via hacking and then posted online. Apple, which created the iCloud and other content-sharing systems, says individual accounts of some of the celebrities were targeted and hacked.

Privacy experts said users of online and cloud technology need not be famous to be vulnerable.

``What we're seeing is people who innocently and in many ways naively are lulled into sharing information that they wouldn't share with their next-door neighbour,'' said Marlene Maheu, a San Diego-based psychologist whose TeleMental Health Institute trains mental health professionals in how to expand their practice online.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Toothpaste out of tube

Even as we share more information online, we also want better control over who can see it, according to a study last year by the Pew Research Center's Internet and American Life Project.

- According to Pew, 50 per cent of Internet uses were worried about the information available about them online, up from 33 per cent in 2009.

Will new phone give Samsung the Edge over rival Apple?

The new Samsung Galaxy Note Edge launched Wednesday. The Edge uses Samsung's flexible-display technology. With the side display, the phone's camera functions more like a stand-alone point-and-shoot camera, as the shutter button and other functions appear on top when the phone is held horizontally. The side display also provides one-tap access to various apps normally found on the home screen. It will also have a panel of tools, like the flashlight and stopwatch, akin to what Apple offers in the iPhone's Control Centre with a swipe up from the bottom.

MICHAEL SOHN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nearly 4 years at 1%

Bank of Canada holds interest rate steady at 1%

The Bank of Canada held its trend-setting interest rate at one per cent on Wednesday as it said there needs to be continued growth in Canada's exports before companies increase their investment and hiring.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

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CANADIAN FILM: A RETROSPECTIVE

HE SAYS

John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

The Toronto International Film Festival is underway, bringing the biggest stars in Hollywood to the one city in Canada that's as full of itself as they are.

The country has reason to be proud, though. The media attention at TIFF is usually on American films, but did you know that Canadian cinema has a storied history that dates all the way back to 1986? It's true. As you can see by this list of key Canadian films, our cinematic history closely reflects what was happening in Hollywood.

Full Woolen Jacket (1986): Four Canadians sit around an October bonfire and talk about how glad they are that Canada stayed out of Vietnam. Good companion piece with The Deer Hunter, the story of four Canadians who go deer hunting and talk about how glad they are that Canada stayed out of Vietnam. Then they go to a casino and play some roulette.

Nicefellas (1990): The story of Henry Hill and his lifelong desire to live the life of an average nobody.

Forest Gump (1994): An unintelligent man accidentally finds himself at many key moments in Canadian forestry, including the establishment of a coherent regulatory system in 1824. "Life is like a box of pallets!"

The Lion Mackenzie King (1994): Animated film about the circle of Canadian elections. Includes classic, "Can you feel the Liberal corporatism tonight?"

Pulp Friction (1994): Gordon Tarantino directed these interlocking, time-jumping stories of the orange-juice-making McCain family and the lumber-producing family the Irvings, both of New Brunswick, Canada's hotbed of violence and seduction.

Quiz Show Canada (1994): The story of how Canada lost its innocence when it was revealed that six-time Bumper Stumpers winner Howard Van Dimple was given the licence plates in advance, dishonestly collecting $182 in the process.

Canadian History X (1998): A young, impressionable youth learns about the underground railroad and decides to make a series of shorts depicting key moments in Canadian heritage.

Fight Club Canada (1999): What happens in Fight Club is heavily regulated so as to prevent injury.

The Bourne Suggestion (2007): Jason Bourne learns the top-secret origins of his life as a trained killer when he politely asks a CSIS agent.

The Good, The Bad and The Ugly (2011): The story of the 2011 election campaign. Decide who's who as your politics dictate.

The General Wolfe of Wall Street (2013): Based on a true story, this biopic follows the classic story arc of an army officer/stock broker who lives the high life until, inevitably, he is shot full of musket balls.

Her (2013): A lonely writer develops an unlikely relationship with his newly purchased BlackBerry. They have a volatile, rapidly deteriorating relationship until she's nothing more than a former shell of her once-influential self.

Canadian filmmakers clearly have reason to hold their heads high. The future looks bright, and I haven't even mentioned The Codfather or its well-loved sequel The Codfather: Part II. The less said about The Codfather: Part III the better.

Corporation quits smoking

American company CVS announces it has finished removing cigarettes and other tobacco products from its store a month before its Oct. 1 deadline by 'putting out' a 50-foot-tall cigarette in Bryant Park on Wednesday in New York City. The store is also changing its name to CVS Health. ANDREW BURTON/GETTY IMAGES

U.S. pharmacy announces it stopped selling ciggies with giant butt-out

U.S. pharmacy chain CVS Caremark plans to stop selling tobacco products in all of its stores starting now — a move health experts hope will be followed by other major drugstore chains.

To bolster its image as a health-care company, CVS will announce a corporate name change to CVS Health. Retail stores will still be called CVS Pharmacy. CVS, which has 7,700 retail locations, is the second-largest drugstore chain in the U.S., behind Walgreens.

The American Pharmacists Association called on drugstores to stop selling tobacco in March 2010 and several smaller, independent chains have done so, APA spokeswoman Michelle Spinnler says. CVS is the first large chain to stop tobacco sales.

USATODAY.COM

By the numbers

$2B

CVS says its tobacco sales amount to $2 billion a year.

MetroTube

Skateboard vicariously

ANDREW FIFIELD
andrew.fifield@metronews.ca

For most, there's a fairly narrow age window to take up skateboarding. I whiffed on mine completely and have since been shackled to second-hand fear and deep admiration when a skateboarder whizzes by on the street. That admiration was amped up considerably by this slow-motion video of Christopher Chann's fancy footwork at L.A.'s Stoner Plaza. (christopherchann/YouTube)

SCREENSHOT

Twitter

@metropicks asked: Some condos are being built with separate entrances for wealthy residents and less wealthy ones. In New York this practice has been banned. Should 'poor doors' be allowed?

@SamKolahi: Why stop there? Maybe, we should have 'poor lanes' on our roads. #shameonyou #ridiculousness

@kingperry: Ugh poor doors. Do we really want to provide opportunities for lower income families or maintain the same buffer of separation??

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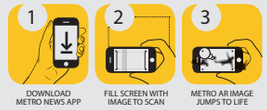

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Let's talk about sex, public office and the electability of artists

Fringe Fest. Trish Kelly reflects on the 1999 monologue about masturbation that cost her a candidacy

BACKSTAGE PASS
Graeme McRanor
vancouver@metronews.ca

When local activist, artist and Vancouver Fringe alumna Trish Kelly performed a monologue about masturbation at the 1999 festival, she probably wasn't even thinking about a career in politics.

Even if she had, she wouldn't have thought the monologue would one day be used to scuttle those ambitions.

But that's exactly what happened when video of that monologue "leaked" after Kelly won the top spot in Vision Vancouver's nomination race for park board. Her validity as a candidate was brought into question, and she subsequently withdrew from the race in July.

Now, if you're like me and live in Canada in the 21st century, you might be having a bit of trouble understanding what's controversial about an artist performing a piece about the sex life of a single person. If you figure it out, please let me know.

It does, however, bring up an interesting point about the electability of artists — particularly those who identify as sex-positive activists.

Open mic night

Controversial artist Trish Kelly will perform and host an open mic night Saturday.

- **Open stage.** The show is at the St. Ambroise Fringe Bar at AGRO Cafe on Granville Island.
- **Admission.** Sign-up to perform starts at 6:30, the show starts at 7 p.m.
- **More info.** Go to vancouverfringe.com

Kelly will broach the subject in a new piece she'll perform Saturday at the St. Ambroise Fringe Bar (at AGRO Cafe on Granville Island).

She's also hosting the evening, an open mic night for Fringe artists and anyone else who'd like to take the stage. Sign-up to perform starts at 6:30 p.m. Show starts at 7 p.m. More information at vancouverfringe.com.

Be a hero at the disco

If you've been alive long enough in this fair city, then you'll remember Luv-a-Fair and Graceland, two legendary Vancouver nightclubs that were developed into cookie-cutter condos inhabited by Yaletowners and tiny purse dogs.

Thankfully, you can relive the clubs' flamboyant glory days through Luvngrace's We Can Be Heroes!, a 70s-90s disco, new wave and klassix dance party, featuring DJ Darren and DJ Czech.

It all goes down Saturday night at the Imperial (319 Main St.). Tickets are $10 in advance at luvngraceaffair.com. Starts at 9 p.m.

Trish Kelly, the former Vision Vancouver park board candidate who withdrew from November's civic election over a former Fringe Festival monologue, performs this Saturday at the AGRO Cafe on Granville Island. CONTRIBUTED

Go Norte four hours

Norte, the End of History is a remarkable film that's playing at the Vancity Theatre tomorrow, Saturday and Sept. 9 and 11 (all 6:30 p.m. screenings).

Lav Diaz's marathon movie (more than four hours) is set in the northern Philippine province of Luzon. It's about a law school dropout who commits a violent double murder, and the gentle family man who takes the fall and gets sentenced to life in prison, leaving behind his wife and two kids.

Critics are raving about it (Tagalog with English subtitles). More information at viff.org.

MTV pioneer is steering the next wave

Thomas Dolby.
Synth-pop rock star who wrote She Blinded Me With Science now a music/film professor at Johns Hopkins

Musician Thomas Dolby, left, prepares for his class, Sound on Film, at Johns Hopkins University's Peabody Institute music conservatory in Baltimore on Aug. 29. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Before composing his 1982 synth-pop hit She Blinded Me With Science, Thomas Dolby sketched out the storyline for the music video.

That's not just rock 'n' roll trivia — it's one of the experiences Dolby can lean on as he teaches film and music students at Johns Hopkins University, a school known more for medical science and research than the arts.

Not bad for a guy whose formal education ended at age 16.

"When I saw the arrival of music videos, I thought it was actually a new opportunity for me to, you know, break through. And I was very lucky that I caught the crest of that wave," Dolby said last week. "She Blinded Me With Science was really, truly a soundtrack for a music video."

The wacky video, about a home for demented scientists, became a favourite on MTV, then about a year old, helping propel the song to No. 5 on Billboard's U.S. charts. Dolby, 55, released three more albums over the next 10 years that cemented his reputation as an electronic music pioneer.

In the 1990s, Dolby moved on to film and video-game scoring, and founded a Silicon Valley company that created software enabling cellphones to produce musically rich ring tones.

Last year, he released a short film, The Invisible Lighthouse, inspired by the decommissioning of a lighthouse near his home in Suffolk, England. He shot it with inexpensive cameras.

Quoted

"I was very lucky ... She Blinded Me With Science was really, truly a soundtrack for a music video."

Thomas Dolby, musician-turned-professor

"I've always been very much a DIY artist," said Dolby, whose real name is Thomas Robertson. He earned the nickname Dolby because when he was young, he lugged around a portable cassette tape deck featuring Dolby Laboratories audio technology.

Never comfortable with music industry middlemen, Dolby relishes the freedom his 12 students have to market their work online.

"The bad news is that there's 10,000 other guys trying to do the same thing."

Dolby began teaching his Sound on Film class Friday at Hopkins' Peabody Institute music conservatory.

"Somebody that is a concert pianist and composer, but knows nothing about marketing, about branding, about technology, is going to have more of a challenge," he said. "So, part of the goal of the course that I'll be teaching here is to give students practical skills that will enable them to get the job done, and, in this case, it's all about filmmaking and film score composition."

School administrators can hardly believe they've landed a bona fide rock-star professor. Paul Mathews, a Peabody associate dean, was stunned when Dolby applied for the post in January.

Students were less familiar with his work.

Jameson Dickman, a string bassist from Washington state pursuing degrees in recording arts and acoustics, said he did a little research on Dolby to prepare for the class but, "I actually, honestly don't know a whole bunch about him."

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B4U Video:
15299 68th Ave, Unit 128

Wise Electronics:
7945 132nd St, Unit 104

Langley
H.S Mobile World & Electronic Services:
20477 Fraser Hwy

Coquitlam
Mobile Republic:
Coquitlam Centre

Sebastien Grainger, left, and Jesse F. Keeler of Death From Above 1979 decided it was time to bury the hatchet and make a second album. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Death From Above 1979 finally roars back to life

The Physical World.
Estranged indie rock duo reunites for first official album in nearly a decade, to the delight of ravenous fans

Time and space have been good for the inner workings of Death From Above 1979, but drummer/vocalist Sebastien Grainger has a different take on the situation.

"We don't need space to make this band work," he says. "We need proximity."

Death From Above released The Physical World, its first album in a decade — and only the second of its career — this past Tuesday, ending a long silence by one of Toronto's most revered post-millennial indie-rock acts.

Few observers were optimistic it would ever be broken when the duo blew apart in 2006. But the band roared back to life decisively this week, setting up a pop-up shop (and tattoo parlour) in downtown Toronto on Wednesday and Thursday that might possibly be the site of the "small shows" that Grainger recently predicted via Reddit. The band also plays a local event called Riot Fest on Saturday.

Even when the bad vibes from the split had cleared and Grainger and bassist Jesse F. Keeler started speaking again for the first time in five years — en route to some high-profile reunion gigs at the SXSW, Coachella and Lollapalooza festivals in 2012 — the pair still viewed the prospect of a new record with suspicion.

It was something they wouldn't consider, says Grainger, "until we'd kind of proved to ourselves that we enjoyed it and that people were enjoying it."

The fact that a lot of people were thirsting for more DFA became clear when its return to the stage at Austin's Beauty Bar for SXSW in March 2012 provoked a riot amongst fans, who tore down the venue's back-alley fences to get into the performance.

Grainger and Keeler, however, fretted from the get-go that they didn't have any fresh material for the reunion and were conscious of prematurely becoming a nostalgia act, so they cautiously began testing new tunes in the set lists on subsequent tours until the public reaction felt right.

"There's a certain goodwill that's extended toward reunion bands," says Grainger. "At a certain point, we didn't want to be a reunion band anymore."

Quoted

"There's a certain goodwill that's extended toward reunion bands. At a certain point, we didn't want to be a reunion band anymore."

Sebastien Grainger, Death From Above drummer, on the band's new album

"We're playing this music that is Seb-and-Jesse 'skill level' in 2003, when we actually recorded the record. And now, here we are with all these additional tools in our tool box — skill- and music- and concept-wise — and we're still playing these same things," says Keeler. "For me, we either had to stop playing again, because it was just like 'All right, that's the thing you were talking about years ago and now we've done it and we're done,' or we did this. It had to be a living thing for us to continue with it."

Both sides of the DFA partnership established themselves as individual talents during their time apart.

Grainger made a couple of well-received, classic-rocking solo records and a curious EP with Tangiers' Josh Reichmann as Bad Tits.

Keeler most notably linked up with producer Al-P as the dance floor-destroying electronic duo MSTRKRFT.

Those outside pursuits — which, the band points out, far eclipse the DFA oeuvre in terms of minutes committed to tape — have also made it much easier to work together again.

Both Keeler and Grainger are more comfortable in their own skins and, likewise, to take the heavy moments on The Physical World to heavier places, while pursuing their pop inclinations to even poppier extremes.

"There was a pressure in the first era, where I felt like I wasn't a complete artist, and this band was all I knew as far as a band or, like, success went," says Grainger.

"It didn't resemble anything else that I was into. It didn't sound like anything else that I liked, so I was like: 'Well, I wanna do all this other stuff.' I don't have that impulse anymore. I can do it if I want to.

"And there's also no ego involved in this era of the band because we know what we do, we know what our dynamic is in this band, we know what our roles are in this band and we respect what we do outside of the band. So it's quite a bit easier now, I think, in that regard."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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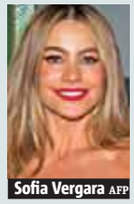
Television

Sofia Vergara tops earning list for TV actresses

Modern Family star Sofia Vergara is the highest-paid U.S. TV actress for the third year in a row, earning about $37 million, according to a 2014 list published Wednesday.

The 42-year-old earned more than the top actor, Ashton Kutcher, who made about $26 million, according to Forbes magazine.


Sofia Vergara AFP

The Colombian-born actress reportedly makes $325,000 per episode, but earns much more from endorsements, including being the face of Diet Pepsi. AFP

Film

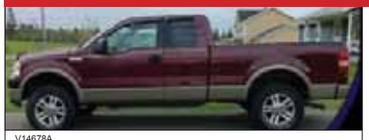
Cop show CHiPs on track for movie version

Dax Shepard of Parenthood will write, produce, direct and star in a feature film based on the lighthearted late-'70s and early-'80s police drama CHiPs, alongside Michael Peña of American Hustle.

Shepard replaces Larry Wilcox and Peña steps into the sturdy boots of Erik Estrada, two buddies in the Californian Highway Patrol.

As well as a proven track record on Parenthood, Shepard is also a motorcycle enthusiast, while Peña has plenty of experience taking on law enforcement roles in End of Watch, Shooter, Babel and comedies Everything Must Go and Observe and Report. AFP

• SALE AT RICHMOND SUZUKI •


V14678A
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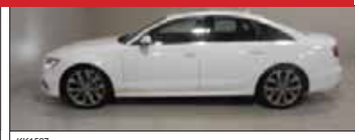
KK1527
2012 AUDI A6 QUATTRO
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AB10505
2006 CHEVROLET RENDEZVOUS CX
Automatic, A/C, power group and more
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VK0957
2007 JEEP LIBERTY
Limited edition, automatic, leather package, sunroof and more
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AB10473
2008 HONDA ACCORD
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VK0953
2009 PONTIAC TORRENT
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$69.74/WK* SALE PRICE $12,995

V14622A
2009 PONTIAC VIBE AWD
Automatic, A/C, power group, AWD and more
$64.97/WK* SALE PRICE $11,995

AB10553
2008 SUZUKI GRAND VITARA AWD
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VK0803
2013 KIA RIO LX PLUS
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$69.74/WK* SALE PRICE $12,995

S14211A
2012 NISSAN ALTIMA V6
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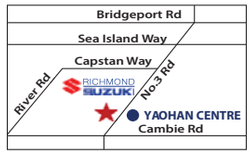

Hemlock Grove will wrap up with a third season in 2015. AFP

Hemlock Grove. Netflix horror series to return for third and final season

Netflix will wrap up its Hemlock Grove horror thriller in 2015 with 10 new episodes, the Hollywood Reporter reveals.

Released in April 2013, the drama's first season was a big hit with Netflix subscribers, despite being largely overshadowed in the press by talk of the platform's House of Cards, starring Kevin Spacey.

Created by Brian McGreevy and produced by Eli Roth, Hemlock Grove is set in a fictional Pennsylvania town where a series of strange events are taking place. While investigating a local murder case, the authorities are led to wonder whether the crime was committed by a human being or an animal.

After House of Cards and Orange Is the New Black, Hemlock Grove is the third Netflix original series to reach its third season, and the first to have an official end date.

Famke Janssen, Bill Skarsgard, Landon Liboiron, Madeleine Martin, Kaniehtiio Horn, Dougray Scott and Joel de la Fuente will return in the final episodes. AFP

Film. Box office slumps to worst summer in years

Hollywood suffered its worst summer in years at the box office, as filmgoers apparently grew tired of blockbuster sequels and epic computer-generated fight scenes, experts said this week.

Between the first weekend of May and the Labour Day weekend, which traditionally marks the end of the summer season, U.S. films made $4.05 billion, down about 15 percent from last year.

That is the smallest box office total since 2006, when films made just $3.75 billion in North America, said Paul Dergarabedian, an analyst at movie data provider Rentrak.

When corrected for inflation, this is the worst summer box office since 1997, according to Rentrak.

But it could have been worse, if rogue superheroes had not saved the day.

Offbeat sci-fi flick Guardians of the Galaxy topped the box office on its fifth week in theatres, and became the biggest grossing film of the year. Family-flick Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles also did well.

Guardians of the Galaxy is this year's biggest-grossing film. AFP

"Guardians and Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles thankfully came at the perfect time, and enabled Hollywood to knock the summer deficit down to just under 15 per cent, from 20 per cent just a month ago," Dergarabedian said. AFP

Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt GETTY IMAGES

Angie honours her mom with pin, ring and a rock

Details about Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt's nuptials in France last month are coming out, thanks to People magazine.

And chief among them? The efforts Pitt and Jolie went to include the memory of her late mother, Marcheline Bertrand, who died in 2007 of ovarian cancer.

"Brad had a dedication to Marcheline engraved inside the chapel where we stood," Jolie tells the magazine. "I also wore a little flower ring that was hers, and (my brother) Jamie wore an angel pin from her jewelry box."

The couple also took their vows atop a stone etched with a tribute to Bertrand.

Keys coy on new album, but next kid is on the way

Alicia Keys, who often releases albums in November and December, is preparing for another delivery at the end of this year: her second baby.

"December album? Well, I know one thing. I'm having a December baby," the singer said with a laugh Tuesday.

Keys says she and husband, producer-rapper Swizz Beatz, know the sex of the baby, but that she's "not sharing." Their son, Egypt, turns four next month.

Keys' last album was 2012's Girl on Fire, which won a Grammy this year for best R&B album. She was coy about when she will release her next album.

Alicia Keys THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Connie to Gwyneth: 'All moms are working hard'

NED EHRBAR
Metro in Hollywood

Hey, remember back in March when Gwyneth Paltrow compared being a mom with a regular office job to being a mom who's a famous actress and decided her situation was tougher?

Well, Nashville star Connie Britton does.

"Our hours are long, but I would never compare what I do to what anyone else does," Britton tells Redbook. "Everybody's working hard and doing the best they can. If you're a mom, there's that pressure, we all face it. I'm constantly being pulled in different directions. But that's the thing: moms are pulled and distracted. I would never say that's worse for me because I'm an actor."

As a refresher, here's what Paltrow said about the difference between her and, say, Diane Keaton's character in Baby Boom (because all of my references are terribly current): "I think it's different when you have an office job, because it's routine and, you know, you can do all the stuff in the morning and then you come home in the evening," Paltrow said.

"When you're shooting a movie, they're like, 'We need you to go to Wisconsin for two weeks,' and then you work 14 hours a day, and that part of it is very difficult. I think to have a regular job and be a mom is not as ... of course there are challenges, but it's not like being on set."

CeeLo Green GETTY IMAGES

Rape-related Twitter fight and ecstasy legal trouble end The Good Life for CeeLo

CeeLo Green's The Good Life won't be coming back to TBS for a second season, which makes sense considering that the former Voice judge's life isn't that good right now.

The cancellation news, first announced by the Hollywood Reporter, comes in the wake of Green's latest legal troubles and a rape-related Twitter meltdown.

Last week, Green pleaded no contest to giving a woman ecstasy without her knowledge in 2012, although his plea maintained his innocence. He was sentenced to three years probation, 360 hours of community service and a year of weekly NA/AA meetings.

He followed that up by getting into a Twitter fight about rape and the nature of consent. "If someone is passed out they're not even with you consciously! So with implies consent," he wrote. "People who have really been raped remember."

Twitter

@TomArnold
Trainer had me take naked pics 2 show progress. They're disgusting but think I've proven last 30 yrs nothing can ruin my career.

@ChloeGMoretz
Wrote my first song ever tonight, shocked because I barely write poetry. Just kind of happened, wow, feeling proud of myself

@ConanOBrien
I don't even trust real clouds anymore.

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PLUS HOMES

Lilac shades in full bloom

Power to the purple. The light hues of summer are following frocks into the fall

TINA CHADHA
Metro World News

We can't believe summer's nearly done. (Did it really even take off?) And while we're not ready to part with barbecues in the park or day drinking on Fridays, we'll take solace in knowing there's one aspect of our warm weather routine we wont have to give up: wearing soft hues.

Yes, a majority of your fall wardrobe will always consist of black and grey, but this season designers also showed everything from burly furs to mini dresses in pretty shades of pink and lavender. Which means, right about now, stores are stocking their racks with some lighter options for you.

Now, pairing your summertime go-to Birkenstocks with socks? We're on the fence about that one.

Topshop Fisherman crop sweater, $56. TOPSHOP.COM

A.L.C. Tonne skirt, $495. SHOPBOP.COM

Zara leather court shoe, $89.90. ZARA.COM

Grafea Hari backpack in lilac, $348. ASOS.COM

A lavender-laden model walks the runway at the Glaw show during the Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week Spring/Summer 2015 in Berlin, Germany. PETER MICHAEL DILLS/GETTY IMAGES

AX Armani Exchange bomber, $168. ARMANIEXCHANGE.COM

Ted Baker London Nevia coat, $525. TEDBAKER.COM

ACNE Studios sweatshirt, $220. NET-A-PORTER.COM

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Handbag heroine Minkoff inspired by art and eras past

Five minutes with... A global lifestyle brand leader gets to talking

TINA CHADHA
Metro World News

Rebecca Minkoff is a fan of normcore. Can you blame her?
DANIELLE KORSAN / METRO

What's the inspiration behind your Spring collection?

I wanted to emulate the colours prominent in the '70s photography of Deborah Turbeville, who is the inspiration behind the entire collection. Much of her work during the boho-chic era of fashion included soft-faded hues and sepia tones, and you'll see colours similar to these on the spring ready-to-wear and handbags.

What's your favourite trend for fall? Or what are you looking forward to wearing?

I'm looking forward to the shearling trend. I have a great shearling jacket that I showed for fall that I'm excited to wear when the temperature drops.

How did you say farewell to summer?

I worked on Labour Day — styling the show and casting models.

What are your thoughts on normcore, the fashion trend that promotes unpretentious unisex design?

I'm loving the normcore trend. The idea of wearing sneakers and being considered fashionable at the same time is amazing!

What was your main form of procrastination while working on your spring collection?

I was expecting my little girl, Bowie, while I was working on my spring collection. Not necessarily a procrastination, but definitely something that I was preoccupied with!

Canadian street style

Spotted in: Toronto

Name: Paula

Age: 21

Occupation: Student

What she's wearing:
Blue converse shoes, Zara top and black shorts, Coach purse and H&M earrings.

Her inspiration:
"My style all depends on what mood I am in. I absolutely love Beyoncé and Rihanna's style, and for sure draw inspiration from certain people I follow on Instagram."

THE KIT IS A MULTI-PLATFORM BEAUTY AND FASHION BRAND WHICH INCLUDES AN INTERACTIVE MAGAZINE AND DYNAMIC APP, A WEBSITE, KIT CHAT – AN E-NEWSLETTER PROGRAM – AND A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER SECTION, TOO!

Seat herbivores and carnivores at the same table

Grilled Vegetable Shawarma with Tahini Dressing with Lamb Flex Appeal.

This dish starts with a vegetable base and adds meat — or not

Ingredients

- 3 tbsp (45 ml) coconut or avocado oil, divided
- 1 onion, sliced
- 2 cups (500 ml) cubed eggplant
- 1 cup (250 ml) sliced mushrooms
- 2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 1 tsp (5 ml) ground cumin
- 2 cups (500 ml) spinach leaves
- 4 pitas, warmed
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) Tahini Dressing (recipe follows)
- tzatziki (optional)

Flex Appeal

- 1 tbsp (15 ml) coconut or avocado oil
- 2 bone-in lamb leg chops (about 6 oz/175 g)

Tahini Dressing

- 1/4 cup (60 ml) mayonnaise
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) tahini
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) freshly squeezed lemon juice

This recipe serves four. The Flex Appeal serves two. PAT CROCKER

1. In a tagine or a skillet with a lid, heat 2 tbsp (30 ml) oil over medium-high heat. Sauté the onion for 4 minutes. Add the remaining oil and the eggplant and mushrooms and stir to mix well. Cover, reduce the heat to low and cook, stirring occasionally, for 12 minutes or until the eggplant is soft. Stir in the garlic, cumin and spinach. Cover and cook, stirring occasionally, for 2 minutes or until the spinach has wilted.

2. On a work surface, lay out pitas. Spread Tahini Dressing (see below) over each pita, leaving a 1-inch (2.5 cm) border around the edges. Spread onion-eggplant mixture down the centre of each pita. Fold sides of the pita around the filling and secure with toothpicks. Serve with tzatziki, if desired.

Flex Appeal

1. In skillet or cast iron grill, heat oil over medium-high heat. Cook lamb chops 3 minutes per side. They should show some pink inside (145 F/63 C for medium-rare).

2. Cut into strips and spread over the vegetables on 2 of the pitas in step 2 above. If you have coloured toothpicks, use a different colour to secure the lamb shawarmas.

Tahini Dressing

1. In a bowl, combine the mayonnaise, tahini, garlic and lemon juice. RECIPE EXCERPTED FROM FLEX APPEAL: A VEGETARIAN COOKBOOK FOR FAMILIES WITH MEAT-EATERS BY PAT CROCKER AND NETTIE CRONISH (WHITECAP BOOKS, 2014)

Cookbook of the Week

Marry, eat and veg

Flex Appeal by Pat Crocker and Nettie Cronish shows you how to make healthy choices that will impress even the staunchest meat-and-potatoes eater. Billed as a vegetarian cookbook for families with meat-eaters, most of the meals offered begin with a delicious vegetarian base and add a suggested meat to the dish or on the side. Among the recipes are Cauliflower and Coconut Curry Chowder, Quinoa Taco Salad and more. METRO

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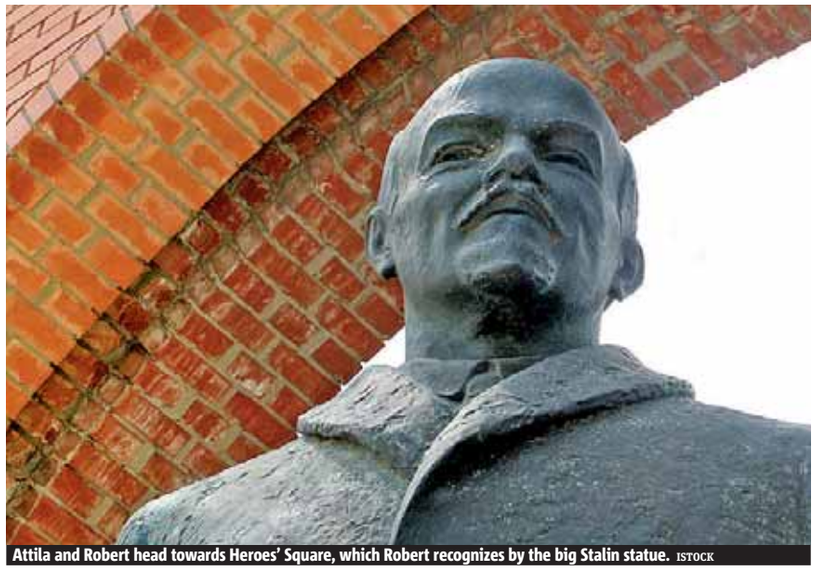
As a special end-of-summer gift to our readers, Metro brings you the first chapter of The Afterlife of Stars, the newest book by award-winning author Joseph Kertes. During this week, we've been introduced to the Beck brothers, two young boys grappling with the world around them as Russian tanks roll into Budapest during the final days of the Hungarian revolution. In **Part 3** of four, the brothers slip out of their house and head towards Heroes' Square.

The Afterlife of Stars



Attila and Robert head towards Heroes' Square, which Robert recognizes by the big Stalin statue. ISTOCK

After that, things moved quickly. Our father told us we could each take what we could carry, no more. I snuck out again to the front room, peered in, making sure there was not a single Russian in the room. Then I ran to the sideboard, no longer watched over by the two-headed eagle, and removed a golden cup and saucer. They looked as if they might have come from a Grecian palace, but they were small, like children's dishes. My parents drank espresso coffee out of them when we had company. I hid them in my shirt and slunk away toward the bedroom. I dashed out again one last time, snatched Attila's Spitfire drawing off the wall, opened my shirt, slipped it past the buttons and slid it all the way to the back above my belt before buttoning up my shirt again.

I ran into the Russian soldier in the hall and thought I'd been caught. My face burned. Instead of stripping me of my booty, he handed me a Russian nesting doll —"*matryoshka*," he called it — and I bowed, feeling the corners of the picture frame claw my skin, before retreating to my room. I slipped the picture under my bed. The brightly painted *matryoshka* doll came apart, and I found that a succession of smaller dolls lived inside, all the way down to a puny one. She was a colorful wooden bean, little more.

As I admired them, Attila said that I was a girl, so I countered with my cowboy hat, spurs, cap gun and holster, all of which I placed in my satchel with the reassembled *matryoshka*. With my back to Attila, I rolled my cup and saucer each into its own sock, pulled his drawing out from under the bed, and finally I added my marzipan monkey, still blanketed in the linen cloth from Gerbeaud. The cloth had a "G" monogram.

"Come with me, my one true love," Attila said behind me.

"Where?"

"Just come. I want to show you something, over by Heroes' Square. I hear something is happening there."

"Where the big Stalin is? The statue?"

He nodded. "Just come."

"Shouldn't we tell somebody we're going?"

"Not if we want to get out of here. We'll be back before anyone notices, don't worry."

Of course we wouldn't be, but I knew better than to argue. From the fierce and determined look on my brother's face, I had a hunch he was taking me to where there were twice as many hanging men as I had seen, and that his hanging men would be Russians, not Hungarians.

We slipped by the commotion in the kitchen, and Attila took me on a trot through the confused streets of our city, streets full of people not going about their business as they might, but looking alarmed, whispering rather than talking to one another. Nobody looked tired or bored, as some did on other days.

Attila had me by the hand. Everyone was pulling hard on my arm these days. We were walking briskly down Andrassy Avenue when a tall woman came out of a white building, a woman with long, straight black hair, wearing a black hat as wide as an umbrella and a black satin cloak which flowed and fluttered with each powerful step she took. She was coming straight toward us. My brother wanted to pick up the pace, but I slowed us down. I was staring.

"What do you want with her?" my brother finally asked.

I stopped altogether. "Want?" The woman had black eyes, black eye shadow.

"Do you want to take her home with you?" Attila said. "She's a black limousine, rearing up on her hind wheels."

She saw us, saw Attila and me looking, and glared at us before crossing the street, though she could easily have run us over.

When we turned a corner, we just about ran down a man ourselves, a beggar holding out his hand. Attila stopped. He seemed to be out of breath for some reason. The man was a Gypsy, propped up against a bakery whose window had been shattered. In the window, a single, dingy lace curtain clung to its rod, shaking its head no in the breeze, "no." I could see a loaf of bread inside on the counter, and a cake that looked blue in the light.

The poor man stood out of the wind on his only leg and held out his only hand. He was like a badly designed tree, with a single branch held out to catch rain.

"What about today?" the man said to us.

"Today?" Attila asked.

"Yes," the Gypsy said.

"I don't know," my brother said.

The man had a crutch lying behind him, together with a battered violin. "Are you back now?" he asked, his hand still held out to us.

My brother looked at me. I expected him to say, "Let's go," but instead he wanted to stay.

I found a single coin in my pocket, put my hand around it. I stepped up and said, "Yes, we've been away, but now we're back. Have you been waiting for us?"

"Oh, a young girl," the man said. Attila grinned broadly. "I have been waiting," the man said. "Lucky girl." My voice hadn't broken yet, and if it didn't soon, I was going to take a rock to it. Compared to me, my brother sounded like a grown man, a man of the world.

I looked into the milk of the man's blue eyes and realized he couldn't see. "How do you play that violin?" I asked. "How do you manage?" I picked it up for him. It still had its shapely *f*-holes, but it was battered—an *I* and an *O* plus some punctuation marks had punched their way through too.

"I haven't played for years," the man said. "The old girl is like a pet I don't have to feed much," he said, laughing. "Are you two musicians?" We didn't answer. "No, of course you're not," he said. "You're someone I stopped on the way to something. That's what I do, stop people on their way to something else."

A young woman flew by us. I could see the whites of her eyes. She turned down an alley between two tall gray stone buildings. She scared me. I thought she was coming right at us. It was impossible to tell whether people were running to something or from something.

My brother said, "Actually, I am a musician." He was grinning again.

The man lowered his begging hand and said, "What do you play?"

"I play piano," he said, "and my sister sings."

"Do you?" the man said, genuinely pleased. I pulled on my brother's arm now. I felt we should give the man a coin and go. The Gypsy said, "What sorts of things do you sing and play?"

"We can do 'Pur ti miro' by Claudio Monteverdi."

"Ah, the duet."

He began to hum, and though I had never heard it myself, I said, "Yes, that's it."

"Can you do anything by Bizet? Can you perform some songs from Carmen?"

"Yes, my sister can, some of them."

"Can you sing 'Habanera'?"

I wanted to tear my brother to pieces. I felt my breakfast coming up.

The man started to sing himself, with a sad, raspy voice. If he had not been blind, I'm sure he would have closed his eyes. Now my brother wanted to leave, but I stood firm. I felt suddenly warmed by the song, warmed by the poor man. My grandmother had played the record a hundred times. I started singing along with the man, every word, without knowing what the French words meant.

L'amour est un oiseau rebelle
Que nul ne peut apprivoiser,
Et c'est bien en vain qu'on l'appelle,
S'il lui convient de refuser.
L'amour! L'amour! L'amour! L'amour!

I stared into the man's face. I was sure I could see the thoughts moving behind his eyes like bits of glass. He said, "You have nice tone, young lady."

"She does," my brother said. "That was nice," he said to me, and I think he meant it.

"Now, listen," the man said. I was still holding his violin, and he pushed it up against me. How did he even know I'd been holding it? "It's magic, listen."

I put my ear against one of the extra holes in the instrument's belly, as if it were a seashell.

"Can you hear that?" I heard nothing. "Can you hear the song?"

I could hear a wet wind now and was sure I could hear the river. "What kind of wood is it made of?" I asked.

"Violin wood," he said, "from the violin tree."

I offered it to Attila to try, but he declined. He wanted to go. I set down the violin where it had lain. The torn awning above our heads flapped. I reached for the Gypsy's hand to give him my coin, and his hand closed greedily on mine.

"We have to go," I said.

He brought my hand up close to his lips. "I hope you have a very good reason for coming back, young lady," he said to the hand before letting it go. I glanced at it to see if it had been soiled. I wanted to wipe it on something.

"I do," I said.

"Yes," my brother said.

Another cold breeze blew up, and I shuddered.

The man still aimed his blind gaze at us. "It must be good," he said. "You must have a very good reason. Life and death."

Attila turned away from the man, suddenly panicked. He gave me a painful yank this time, and we took off toward Heroes' Square.

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TRANSITION INTO FALL FASHION

DONATE SUMMER CLOTHES AT VALUE VILLAGE

The fall fashion season is upon us. How is your closet going to adapt?

With bulky coats, sweaters and other cold-weather garments coming onto the shopping scene and out of storage, fall is a time of transition.

Why not donate the summer clothes you no longer need at Value Village?

Value Village partners with local not-for-profit organizations so every purchase helps provide sustainable funding for vital community programs and services. Every item you donate helps.

"Spring and fall are typically the busiest time for donations," says Janelle Robertson, general manager for the National Diabetes Trust (NDT), operator of Clothesline, a fundraising program across Canada that enables donors to give away their gently used clothing, small household items and electronics, year-round.

Clothesline partners with Value Village to receive donations for the items it collects. Proceeds support the Canadian Diabetes Association and the more than nine million Canadians living with diabetes or prediabetes — so buying from and donating at Value Village or Clothesline are good for the community.

Because Value Village only puts top-quality donated items into the store, Value Village is the perfect place to look for cost-effective, cool-weather fashion this fall. At Value Village a like-new wool coat can cost as little as $15 — a deep discount from the $200-plus price tag you may find on a new coat.

CONTRIBUTED

"Last year, our sales from Value Village helped the Canadian Diabetes Association invest more than $7 million in diabetes research and operate 12 summer camps for more than 1,600 children and youth with Type 1 diabetes and their families, and more," Robertson says.

Donate at Value Village through Clothesline. You can drop your items off in person at one of the more than 2,000 donation boxes across the country, or schedule a free pick-up at your home. Call 1-800-505-5525 or visit diabetes.ca. Find a drop box near you by visiting diabetes.ca/dropbox.

For more, visit valuevillage.com.

– Stephanie Orford

KEEP YOUR CLOSET GREEN

As the leaves turn red and orange, keep your home and clothing purchases green by shopping second-hand.

Value Village works with local community organizations to give Canadians an eco-friendly place to shop.

Clothesline, one of the non-profit organizations Value Village partners with, diverts more than 48 million kilograms of clothing, household items and electronics away from Canadian landfills per year.

This translates into a savings of 876 million kWh of energy, and reduces donors' carbon footprint by 120 million kilograms of CO_2 emissions — the equivalent amount of CO_2 emitted by driving a car 43,000 times around the globe. Put another way, the reduction in pollution has the same effect as saving 8.6 million trees.

Since you are making the transition to a warmer wardrobe, it's the perfect time to reconsider what's in your closet, and recycle everything you don't need anymore.

Keeping your closet green is just one of the many great reasons to donate.

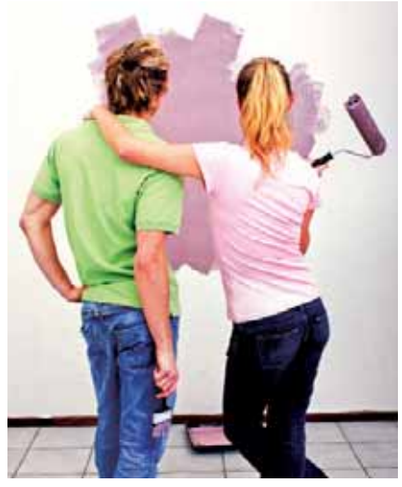
Fresh look for your home decor

Fall fashion isn't just for your closet. It's also for your home.

This fall, let the season inspire your home decor. You can get great deals on furniture, home wares and other items at Value Village.

Do-it-yourself interior designers can find just as much or more selection at Value Village than they could find at a department store.

Here are some ideas for DIY fall decor:



SHUTTERSTOCK PHOTOS

PAINT

A fresh coat of paint can give an unassuming piece of furniture a brand new personality. Try fresh white for simplicity, or make the piece pop with a fall colour such as wine, pumpkin or forest green. Crackle-effect paint can give the piece even more richness.

All of a sudden that unassuming table, chair or desk is the room's centrepiece.

For post-secondary students and others on a budget, this is a great way to save money and take your home decor to the next level.

REPURPOSE

Convince your visitors of your decorating genius by making or repurposing other furniture. Make a coffee or side table from an old luggage trunk or suitcase to give yourself extra storage space.

INCORPORATE TEXTILES

A beautiful blanket provides a practical accessory to warm up and add colour to your seating area, and can double as a wall hanging. The textiles you will find at Value Village are one-of-kind.

MIX AND MATCH

Some of the most charming dish sets aren't sets at all. A set of mismatched plates, bowls and cups will lend eclectic charm to your dinner parties.

FRAME IT

Value Village is a great source for vintage picture frames. Use them in decorations of all types, whether it's to frame your current art, the hall mirror, or simply to display a beautiful frame on the wall.

– Stephanie Orford

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Pop art packs a punch

Mid-century modern style is now firmly planted in the home decor landscape. And one of its elements — pop art — is cultivating a 21st-century following. Eye-catching, graphic, often tongue-in-cheek or sassily whimsical, pop art decor plays well off the vintage vibe and yet also makes contemporary furnishings, well, pop.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A map printed in hot pink and Slushie blue would make a great pop art wall covering. MOLLASPACE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The imagery of consumer culture

In the 1950s, Abstract Expressionism dominated the art world, with Willem de Kooning, Mark Rothko and Jackson Pollock among its superstars. The canvas served as an arena for aggressive applications of paint. Conceptual, non-figurative art found a strong following in the art world, if not always with average Americans, at least at first.

In the effervescent, culture-obsessed 1960s, artists like Andy Warhol, Jasper Johns, Roy Lichtenstein and David Hockney created collages, mixed media art and lithographs that depicted the talismans of popular culture. They took inspiration from consumer culture, from soap boxes to soup cans, flags to the funny papers, Marilyn Monroe to Mao. While some critics derided it as jokey, lowbrow or too focused on materialism, the approachable imagery connected easily with mainstream America. It was hip, fun and relatable.

Baugust's pony chair sculpture nods to pop art. MOLLASPACE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The modern art of optical illusions and psychedelia

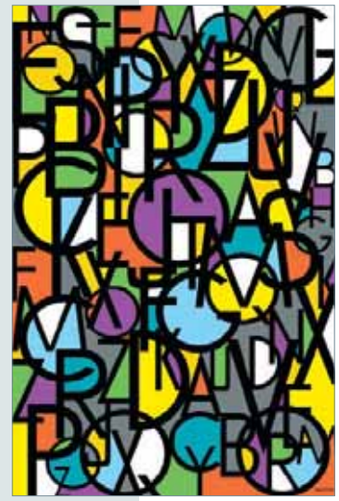
The Museum of Modern Art's store has lots of pop art items from which to choose: Damien Hirst's white wall clock with colourful polka dots would be terrific in a child's room. Verner Panton's black and white Optik pillow features a dizzying kaleidoscope of circles and stripes that's as much "op" as "pop." There's also a wide range of prints and postcards that you can frame yourself. (momastore.org)

Check Spoonflower.com for fabric yardage and wallpaper with pop art prints from new designers. There are psychedelic-inspired patterns, and even a chicken print that riffs off of the now-famous screen-printing technique that Warhol used for portraits.

A literal, comic pop. MAXWELL DICKSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

An explosion of tongue-in-cheek typography

Canvases and throw pillows from the Los Angeles art decor studio Maxwell Dickson feature some arresting, edgy designs, including a photorealistic image of a tableful of empty liquor bottles, a typographic traffic jam of colour-blocked letters, and the word Pop exploding like a cartoon graphic. (maxwelldickson.com)



A traffic jam of colour-blocked typography. MAXWELL DICKSON/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Masters of the vivid, the oversized and the abstract

Fab.com's pop art decor includes Quinze + Milan's giant Brillo box pouf. Also of note: Karlsson's minimalist wall clock made of two oversize red hands; Finnish designer Jonna Saarinen's abstract, printed birch tray in vivid tangerine and red; and lithographs in the Masters of Pop Art collection that includes Warhol's portrait of Muhammad Ali, Keith Haring's Untitled series, and Roy Lichtenstein's Blonde Waiting.

Coasters printed with blank text bubbles à la comic art come with erasable markers. MOLLASPACE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The coaster is clear to write a cartoon bubble

Baugust's whimsical little black upholstered chairs shaped like ponies, lambs and buffalo are available at Mollaspace. Here too are acrylic coasters printed with blank cartoon-speech bubbles that can be written on with a reusable pen, and a series of canvas storage bins printed with old-school boom boxes, radios and TV sets. (mollaspace.com)

Graphic lines and colour

"I consider pop art a classic. It was such an important time in design and it continues to withstand so many fleeting trends. As a designer, I'm always drawn to pop first because I appreciate graphic lines and very obvious colour."

Jennifer DeLonge, an interior and product designer in Carlsbad, Calif.

DeLonge has launched a social marketplace app called Reissued that brings lovers of vintage, one-of-a-kind and hard-to-find items together to buy and sell. A bright yellow 1960s Coke bottle crate was recently up for grabs. (reissued.com)

That '70s show goes on

A few pop art accessories in a room make a statement for a modest price. Creative Motion's cylindrical table lamp printed with comic-strip imagery is under $50. A collection of kicky, '70s-style graphic print pillows from notNeutral pack pop punch. (wayfair.com)

Trina Turk's '70s style print linen pillow. WAYFAIR.COM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fade into fall with ombré

What goes from light to dark and adds drama to any space? A decorative treatment called ombré. The term is a French one, meaning gradation, and it describes a gradual progression of colour or tone that lets the eye travel calmly without any harsh visual interruptions. It's definitely a casual look that helps soften a room, and allows light and bright to harmonize with deep and dark. Ombré can be incorporated almost anywhere from small household accessories to large furniture pieces and painted wall treatments.

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

Simple handmade baskets get a jolt of modern colour. Gaddis basket, $6, ikea.ca.

No ladder needed for this wall treatment; simply fade the paint colour away at arm's length to get an ombré effect.

DESIGNERS GUILD

Soft grey and white creates a soothing yet crisp tabletop. Vera Wang Wedgwood Simplicity Ombré Dinnerware, $90, bedbathandbeyond.ca.

Semi-antique rugs get new life with a gradual over-dye of colour. Hand-Knotted Colour Transition Red Wool Rug, 4.5 x 7.5 feet, $268, ecarpetgallery.com (No. 56554).

For those who like to create a spa feel for the bath. Aqua Ombré Chenille Bath Mat, $25, simons.ca.

The simplest way to add trends to a bath is with linens. Designers Guild Saraille Lime Towel, from $16, putti.ca.

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SPORTS 4

‘Fail Mary’ rematch kicks off NFL season

No biggie. Seahawks shrug history to focus on repeating their Super Bowl title

Officials signal after Seattle Seahawks’ wide receiver Golden Tate pulled in a last-second pass from quarterback Russell Wilson to defeat the Green Bay Packers 14-12 in Seattle in 2. It’s been nearly two years since the Packers and Seahawks’ “Fail Mary” game, named after the disputed TD on the final play. Both teams say that result has no bearing on Thursday night’s season opener, even if no one will ever forget it. JOHN LOK/THE SEATTLE TIMES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

At some point they will take a moment to acknowledge the celebration taking place around them. Pete Carroll and his team will step back from an off-season focused on forgetting what happened in 2013 and for a brief second appreciate the festivities commemorating Seattle’s first Super Bowl title.

Once the Super Bowl banner is unveiled, it will be time to embark on the quest to become the first team in a decade to repeat.

“There’s a challenge every game, particularly opening game. After coming off the off-season and all that, there’s always a big challenge,” Carroll said.

Seattle will raise the curtain on the 2014 NFL season Thursday night hosting fellow NFC contender Green Bay.

It’s the first regular- season meeting between the teams since the “Fail Mary” two years ago, when Seattle won on a disputed touchdown on the final play of a game that also helped bring an end to the use of replacement officials.

But history was not the focus for Seattle this entire off-season, whether it was a controversial win two seasons ago, or its 43-8 romp over Denver in the Super Bowl.

“I think the thing that really separates us is we always stay true to who we are,” Seattle safety Earl Thomas said. “We’re going to recapture what we did last year and add a few more things to it.”

Green Bay knows about winning a title and the pitfalls of trying to repeat. Aaron Rodgers got his championship four seasons ago and followed up by going 15-1 in the 2011 regular season before being bounced in the divisional round of the playoffs by the New York Giants.

With the addition of Julius Peppers to the defence, a revamped secondary and Year 2 of Eddie Lacy creating a balanced offence, many pundits believe the Packers can dethrone Seattle in the NFC.

That test begins Thursday.

“This is a game that we’ve been in before after we won the Super Bowl. We know the excitement that surrounds it,” Rodgers said.

“It’s a highly rated game. We’re playing at a tough environment with the Super Bowl champions, so it’s going to be a tough test for us.”

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Page turned

“I’m pretty sure we’ve all moved on. I haven’t talked about it probably since it happened.”

Green Bay wide receiver Jordy Nelson

Lions

UBC product Cody Husband may replace Dean Valli

Cody Husband has learned the tricks of the trade on the offensive line from some notable CFL veterans, including Peter Dyakowski and Marwan Hage, during his time with the Hamilton Tiger-Cats.

Husband may well implement that knowledge when the Lions take on the Ottawa RedBlacks on the road Friday.

A product of the New Westminster Hyacks and UBC Thunderbirds football programs, Husband could make his first start at right guard for the Lions against the RedBlacks and their 1-8 record.

He could replace veteran Dean Valli on the offensive line.

Coach Mike Benevides said a decision on whether Valli plays against Ottawa will be made about an hour before game time.

Husband suffered a torn ACL in Week 5 of last season, underwent surgery and was released by the Tiger-Cats shortly before training camp this spring. He signed with the Lions in May.

Quarterback Travis Lulay, who has recovered and come back from off-season shoulder surgery, will start.

It appears newcomer Cory Brandon — “a big dude,” said Lulay — will start at left guard in place of the injured Hunter Steward, and Husband could replace Valli.

“I have to play the position with great trust in those around me,” said Lulay. “If I’m worried about what they’re doing, I can’t do my job at the highest level.” CAM TUCKER/METRO

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AUGMENTED REALITY

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Stuck on 12 Across? Scan this image with your Metro News app for today's crossword and Sudoku answers. It's OK. No one's watching.

→ See the full instructions on Metro's Voices page.

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Whatever your aims are right now they'll change dramatically over the next few days. In fact, what happens today or tomorrow will turn your plans on their head, so be ready.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
If there is something you've wanted to do but never got around to, you're about to get a chance. It's the ideal time to begin something creative.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Sacrifices will have to be made over the next few weeks but they are worth it. The important thing is that you stay calm and don't do anything drastic.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Sit back and stop worrying. That is the message of the stars today and if you're smart you'll heed it. Looking back, you will realize you got worked up about certain issues for no reason.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You are doing more than enough as it is, so if someone asks you to help out today find a way to say "no". The last thing you need now is to be taking on even more chores.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
There is just no way a certain person is going to see things the same way as you, and if you can accept that fact you'll have an excellent day.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
At some stage today you will realize how hard it can be to understand certain people. Take the hint and accept that people, like life in general, can be messy.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
There is a task you have yet to complete and over the next 24 hours you must decide whether to carry on with it or give up on it. Clearly it doesn't inspire you, so why not just let it go?

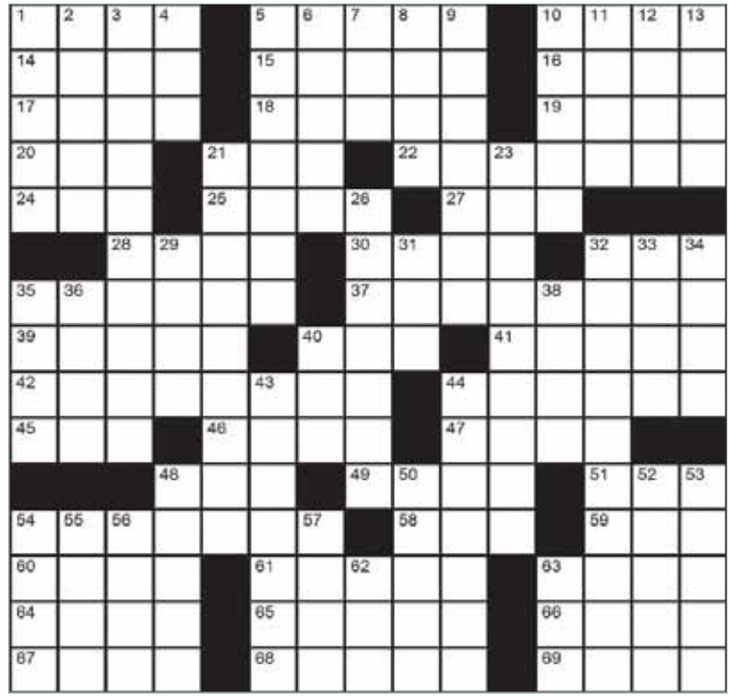
♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
There is an easy and difficult route to the place you want to be. It may be tempting to take the difficult route just so you can impress others but why make life hard for yourself?

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
No matter how tough the challenges that come your way from now until the end of the year, you will handle them with ease. Take each day as it comes.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You've overlooked something that could make a difference to your future. Give it some thought and when you have found what it is make sure you make it central to your plans.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
What happens today will urge you to question something you've taken for granted. Don't be afraid to change your thinking and long-term plans.

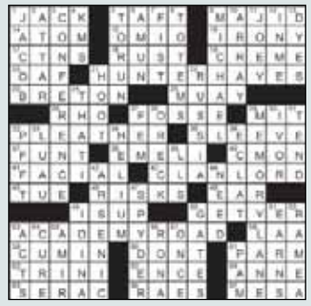
Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan



Across
1. __ Meadows, BC
5. A funny Bob
10. Stages cycling race on now, __ of Alberta
14. Ryan Gosling movie, "__ and the Real Girl" (2007)
15. Circumvent
16. __ Tiara (Duchess Kate's wedding headdress)
17. Draw _ __ (Do cartography)
18. Desert dweller
19. Epiphanies!
20. American network
21. Three
22. God/planet
24. Get permission
25. Sea captain's spot
27. '_' __ in Canora
28. Section
30. Sci-Fi rides
32. "Star Trek: Voyager" role
35. Seven Wonders of the World... __ of Alexandria
37. Brit singer of current hit "I'm Not the Only One": 2 wds.
39. "I'm going __ __ York." ...said the Big Apple bound tourist
40. "__ be an honour."
41. Modern day witchcraft
42. Transformers: Foes of Decepticons
44. Homespun
45. Grads-to-be, briefly
46. Commedia dell'__
47. 'A' in UAE
48. Perfect
49. Ms. Bagnold of books
51. Curious
54. __ Flowers ("Cityline" gardening expert, fun-style)
58. MGM's motto, __ Gratia Artis (Art for Art's Sake)
59. Sundial number
60. "Metropolis" (1927) director Fritz
61. Magna cum __
63. Mr. Hemsworth
64. Seed's protector
65. Pear-shaped instruments
66. Ms. Bancroft
67. Certain currency
68. Wield
69. Big golf tournaments, e.g.

Down
1. Tragically Hip album: 'Now for __ _'
2. Poetic feet
3. Athletic/casual attires: 2 wds.
4. Sugar amt.
5. Spy's uncoverings
6. Benefit
7. Actress Rita
8. Grand garden
9. Bell, Rogers and Telus = __ giants
10. Frank Sinatra's "__ Life"
11. Honolulu's home
12. Capital of Mongolia, __ Bator
13. Long-stem flower
21. __ Thursday (When celebrities post vintage photos of themselves on social media)
23. Logging-on needs
26. __-__ movie
29. 'Mars'-meaning prefix
31. It's 'in'
32. Mixed Martial Arts component
33. And so on, plurally [abbr.]
34. Ms. Mitchell (Actress from Mississauga, ON)
35. Harper Valley, et al.
36. Lunch time?
38. Ms. Kunis
40. TV Cousin
43. Ear: French
44. Most just
48. English-speaking Quebecer, commonly
50. Consumer advocate Ralph
52. Paul Anka title girl in 1957
53. Bluenose coins
54. Brouhaha
55. One-of-a-kind
56. Tropical birds
57. Waters: French
62. Driver's 4x4, commonly
63. __ of luxury

Yeterday's Crossword



Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

9		8	4		2	1		5
		2				9		
4	5						7	8
			9		6			
	2						1	
			1		4			
2	7						9	6
		3				7		
5		1	7		8	3		2

Yesterday's Sudoku

7	8	5	1	2	4	9	3	6
1	4	3	5	6	9	2	8	7
9	6	2	8	7	3	4	5	1
3	1	9	7	4	5	6	2	8
5	7	4	6	8	2	1	9	3
6	2	8	9	3	1	7	4	5
8	5	7	2	9	6	3	1	4
2	3	6	4	1	8	5	7	9
4	9	1	3	5	7	8	6	2

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M: RF28HMEDBSR

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SAMSUNG

M: DW80F600UTS

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